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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION FOR THE RESEARCH  
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1. There is reported to be such an acute shortage of crude iron and steel in the Soviet Zone of Germany that the collapse of the entire industry of central Germany appears imminent. In Thuringia, for instance, 75 percent of all foundries have already stopped operations and the shutting down of the remaining plants is only a question of time. In addition to the shortage of foundry products, the iron and metal processing industry is ~~in~~ need of medium-gauge sheet-iron, which, in the past, had been supplied from western Germany.
2. The situation will become even more serious after the closing of the Maximilians-~~werke~~ in Unterwellenborn. Although these works have enough scrap iron on hand to continue operating, they will be forced to close down in the near future for lack of Ruhr coke, since coke from Upper Silesia is of inferior quality and cannot be used as a substitute for the Ruhr product.
3. Russian Zone foundries have also almost exhausted their stocks of coke, which, up to now, had been supplied by the large gas works in Magdeburg. These works have been forced to close down for lack of coal from the Ruhr.

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1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

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